

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Conservation Stewardship Project 2010 Schedule

ONE-TIME VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME
No Experience Necessary

*We Meet on the 4th Tuesday Morning of the Month
from 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Please Carpool!*

March 23rd: GARLIC MUSTARD REMOVAL & SEEP AREA EXCURSION

Meet at Trotter Road parking lot

Volunteers help pull Garlic mustard alongside our trails every year. Our goal is to maintain previously cleared areas, plus we'll seek out and eliminate any new or remaining satellite mustard invasions. If time permits we'll visit the spring seep area to remove other invasives too. The seep area was historically rich with American woodcock activity and efforts continue there to restore proper Timberdoodle feeding cover. Restoration of this special area is hindered chiefly by the presence of Multiflora rose. While in the seep, we'll observe and discuss the significant progress volunteers have made in replenishing this habitat.

April 27th: SPRING EPHEMERAL SPREE & GARLIC MUSTARD REMOVAL

Meet at South Wind Circle

We plan this event to coincide with the blooming of numerous Virginia bluebells found in the work zone. Often we're successful and occasionally we aren't; however, many other spring ephemeral plants will be seen, identified and discussed while attendees travel a wooded route to uproot Garlic mustard. Customarily we conclude at the verdant spot where Cricket Creek flows into the Middle Patuxent. Even though we see less mustard each year, still be prepared for a morning of vigorous Garlic mustard removal.

May 25th: ALDER ADDITION & INVASIVE SUBTRACTION

Meet at Trotter Road parking lot

If we've got 'em, we'll plant 'em: Native alders that is. Alders are well suited for survival in the seep area where volunteers have contributed so much work already. Planting additional alder shrubs may take all morning. If not, we will return our focus to non-native, invasive plant species removal. Primarily we may seek out and dig up *Berberis thunbergii* aka Japanese barberry, a recurring nemesis in the environmental area.

June 22nd: MENACING THE MILE-A-MINUTE

Meet at Trotter Road parking lot

Non-native, invasive plants are a real threat to our habitat restoration efforts. Mile-a-minute vine, among several other invasive species, is the worst offender of the trails and meadows in the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. Come out and assist us in removing vines from various places within our meadow areas. Time allowing we'll either have a guest speaker knowledgeable on meadow flowers or we'll visit one of the test sites for biological control of Mile-a-minute vine.

July & August: NO PROGRAM

September 28th: INVASIVE VINE TRIMMING & MONARCH ACTIVITIES

Meet at Trotter Road parking lot

Invasive plants are impacting the native woody plants associated with the wildlife meadows and our early successional habitat maintenance goals. We'll continue our restoration efforts by removing invasive vines from mature native plants and also from the deer shelters protecting younger specimens. Finally, back by popular demand, we'll have a guest to teach about Monarch butterfly natural history and demonstrations of butterfly capture, tagging, & release methods.

October 26th: RIPARIAN BUFFER RETREAT

Meet at South Wind Circle

Hundreds and hundreds of native trees and shrubs have been planted by our volunteers. On this morning we'll return to a previous riparian planting site and work to control any invasive plants which may be affecting the area. Included will be a short discussion of the benefits of riparian buffer zones. Wear comfortable shoes as we'll be walking a little farther than usual.

November 23rd: Barberry Bustin'

Meet at Trotter Road parking lot

We haven't seen the last of the Japanese barberry. It will take several events every year to get the plant "back" under control. Using the same techniques we practiced "back" in March we'll keep digging and uprooting these unwelcome intruders of natural areas. We will progress along trail corridors in the heavily infested areas. Spine-proof gloves are a must!